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31 January 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Member United States Intelligence Board

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Requirement for Additional BLACK SHIELD  
Coverage of North Korea

REFERENCE : OPCEN 1800 dated 30 January 1968

1. This is a briefing note on the above subject which has been circulated to USIB members for concurrence or other views by noon Wednesday, 31 January 1968.

2. COMIREX considered the need for additional BLACK SHIELD photography of North Korea at a special meeting 30 January. Urgent requests from field commands for follow-on missions have been received by DIA.

3. The primary remaining deficiency noted by PACAF is in coverage of jet-capable airfields, seven of which were not photographed by [redacted] thus leaving [redacted] North Korean IL-28's unaccounted for. It was noted, however, that these aircraft will probably be located in KH-4 photography from [redacted] now on orbit.

4. The recommendations of COMIREX match closely the advice received from Agency elements concerned with the North Korean crisis. BX quality photography of northern North Korea is, of course, desirable in the face of possible future developments. However, we would not request recoverage of the south and the DMZ in the near future unless other sources indicate that a build-up is taking place.

5. With regard to Recommendation 2.B., concerning the contribution of satellite photography, COMIREX requested NRO to delay recovery of the first bucket [redacted] so that additional photography of the North Korean border areas could be acquired and returned for timely readout. The preliminary readout should be available [redacted]

6. Recommendation:

It is recommended that you approve the recommendations of the COMIREX with the understanding that the later mission for recoverage

NRO review(s) completed.

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of the southern part of North Korea will not be undertaken in the near future unless other sources indicate that a build-up is taking place.

7. The DDS&T and the Korean Task Force concur in the above recommendation.

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Acting CIA Member COMIREX

CONCUR: *Subject To comment below*

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Rufus Taylor  
Vice Admiral, USN  
CIA Member, USIB

1. I would urge that the mission recommended in Paragraph 2.A.(2) be flown if other sources indicate a build up might be taking place. I do not have high enough confidence in "other sources" to wait until they indicate a build up is taking place.

2. With regard to Paragraph 2.B I do not feel that COMIREX, on its own should shift satellite coverage to the "maximum extent possible" without first advising USIB what other coverage would be sacrificed. I do feel that they should do all feasible without further reference to USIB if high priority coverage elsewhere does not suffer as a result.

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